Installation of Atomic power plants MAPP-I and II

2353. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the PRIME MINISER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the two Madras Atomic Power Plants MAPP-I and MAPP-II were commissioned at a cost of around 30 per cent more of the original estimated cost;

(b) if so, how much of the cost escalation was attributed to the delay in implementing the schemes and how much of it was due to delay in the action taken by the State Government in regard thereto; and

(c) how far the electricity supply rates from these plants are commensurate with the cost of the plants and the cost of working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No, Sir, Against the original sanctioned cost of Rs. 61.78 crores and Rs. 70.63 crores, the Units I and II of Madras Atomic Power Station were completed at costs of Rs. 118.73 crores and 127.04 crores respectively.

(b) There has been no increase in cost which is attributable to the delay in action taken by the State Government.

(c) The tariff rates for MAPS as for all other nuclear power stations in the country provide for a return of 12 per cent on investment in these stations in addition to recovering cost of the plants (through depreciation) and operating costs.

Re-introduction of income tax for foreign nationals in Saudi Arabia

2354. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Saudi Arabian Government is reintroducing income-tax for all foreign nationals and companies;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said introduction of income tax affects largely the Indian population which is in Saudi Arabia and whether any representation has been received by Government to take up the issue with the Saudi Arabian Government; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken in persuading the Saudi Arabian Government to cancel the tax proposal against foreign nationals, especially, Indians?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): No, Sir. The Saudi Government's decision of December 30, 1987 to re-introduce income tax on all foreign nationals effective from January 1988 was rescinded by the King through a Royal Decree two days later.

(b) Yes, Sir. Introduction of income tax would have affected not only the Indian workers in Saudi Arabia but the entire expatriate community in the Kingdom.

(c) Does not arise.

Public Sector Employees out of the Central Vigilance Commission's purview

2355. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission has condemned Government's decision to take public sector employee out of

the Commission's purview for dealing with the corruption cases;

(b) whether the decision to limit the role of the Commission vis-a-vis the public sector undertakings violates the terms of reference of the Commission as contained in the Resolution of 1964; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to review the decision in view of the Commission's remarks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Only below board level appointees have been taken out of the purview of the Central Vigilance Commission. The Commission's disagreement with the decision of the Government has been incorporated in the Commission's Annual Report (para 1.3.4) for 1986. This has been laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament.

(b) This is not a fact, as the jurisdiction of the CVC in respect of general powers of prevention of Corruption and supervision, direction and monitoring of vigilance work in public sector enterprises continues as before. CVOs in public sector undertakings continue to be appointed in consultation with the CVC. Only the CVC's advisory role in respect of individual cases has been limited to Board level appointees only.

(c) Government does not intned to review its decision as this was taken after the question was examined in detail by the Fazal Committee, Arjun Sen Gupta Committee and Economic Administrative Reforms Commission. The recommendations of these committees were examined first by a Committee of Secretaries and then by a Group of Ministers who recommended that the findings of these committees should be accepted.

Cases pending in various courts

2356. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

SHRI RAMSINGBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of measures Government are considering for early disposal of heavy backlog of pending cases in various High Courts and the Supreme Court; and

(b) whether Government propose to establish separate cells in each department for settlement of disputes so as to avoid unnecessary litigation and also to reduce the work-load of courts, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) A Statement indicating the steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency in High Courts and Supreme Court is annexed herewith (See below).

(b) No proposal is under consideration of the Government for setting up cells in each Department for settling disputes concerning that Department. Such a Cell would not be an appropriate mechanism for settlement of disputes.

Statement

Steps taken from time to time to reduce pendency in courts

1. Elimination of arrears in all courts had been discussed in the Conference of Chief Justices, Chief Ministers and Law Ministers of States held on 31st August—1st September, 1985 and the Resolutions of the Conference had been commended to the High Courts and the State Governments for implementation.